

§Appl. No. 10/049,442
Amdt. dated July 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of, January 8, 2004

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A tablet ~~containing~~ comprising at least one genus of probiotic microorganisms, characterized in that the tablet ~~itself~~ and/or the probiotic microorganisms has/have at least one enteric coating comprising at least two layers.
2. (Original) The tablet according to claim 1, characterized in that the tablet is a multilayer tablet.
3. (Currently Amended) The tablet according to claim 1, characterized in that the probiotic microorganisms are lactobacilli, bifidus ~~bacteris~~ bacteria, or streptococci, preferably Lactobacillus casei, Lactobacillus acidophilus, Bifidobacterium bifidum, Bifidobacterium longum, and/or Lactobacillus plantarum.
4. (Currently Amended) The tablet according to claim 1, characterized in that it contains from 10^3 to 10^{12} , ~~preferably~~ from 10^5 to 10^{11} , ~~more preferably~~ or from 10^7 to 10^{10} probiotic microorganisms.
5. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 1, characterized in that the enteric coating essentially consists of shellac or of shellac and polyvinylpyrrolidone.
6. (Currently Amended) The tablet according to claim 1, characterized in that the coating is comprised of ~~at least~~ two layers, one layer essentially consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone, and/or one layer essentially consisting of shellac or shellac and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

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7. (Original) The tablet according to claim 6 1, characterized in that the coating is comprised of at least two layers arranged one on top of the other, the/one inner layer in the proximity of the core essentially consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone, and/or the/one outer, off-core layer essentially consisting of shellac or of shellac and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

8. (Currently Amended) The tablet according to claim 5, characterized in that the amount of shellac is from 1 to 10 wt.-%, ~~preferably~~ from 1.5 to 6 wt.-%, ~~and more preferably or~~ from 2 to 3.5 wt.-%.

9. (Currently Amended) The tablet according to claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains further nutritionally relevant additives, preferably~~ further comprises vitamins, minerals, trace elements, roughage, enzymes, vegetable extracts, proteins, carbohydrates, and/or fats.

10. (Previously Presented) The tablets according to claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains additional adjuvants, particularly in its coating(s), preferably~~ further comprises plasticizers, ~~more preferably~~ glycerol, Miglyol, mold wax, and/or acetylated monoglycerides.

11. (Withdrawn) A process for producing the tablet according to claim 1, characterized in that the coating is coated from an aqueous solution and/or from an organic solution, preferably from an organic solution, and more preferably from an alcoholic solution.

12. (Withdrawn) An oral administration form containing at least one genus of probiotic microorganisms, characterized in that the administration form itself and/or the probiotic microorganisms has/have at least one enteric coating.

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13. (Withdrawn) The oral administration form according to claim 12, characterized in that the oral administration form is a tablet, a coated tablet, a capsule, a granulate, or a powder, preferably a tablet, and more preferably a tablet, and more preferably a multilayer tablet.

14. (New) A tablet comprising at least one genus of probiotic microorganisms, characterized in that the coating is comprised of at least two layers, one layer essentially consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone, and/or one layer essentially consisting of shellac or shellac and polyvinylpyrrolidone, and wherein probiotic microorganisms are lactobacilli, bifidus bacteria, or streptococci, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, and/or *Lactobacillus plantarum*.